

For Immediate Release:

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Michelle Rhee, Founder of StudentsFirst, to Address K-20 Competitiveness Subcommittee

Tallahassee, Fla. – Michelle Rhee, former chancellor of the District of Columbia public schools system and founder of StudentsFirst, will address the House K-20 Competitiveness Subcommittee, chaired by Representative Erik Fresen (R-Miami), on <u>Wednesday</u>, February 9, 2011, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

"Michelle Rhee is a nationally recognized figure," said Representative Bill Proctor, Chairman of the House Education Committee. "And as we work to address teacher quality in the upcoming legislative session, we look forward to hearing what her experiences have taught her as it relates to children benefitting from having high performance teachers in the classroom."

"This committee is tasked with finding ways to improve our state's education system," said Representative Fresen. "Ms. Rhee has a record of transforming low-performing schools into outstanding ones and I am certain our members will benefit from hearing her experiences and perspective."

ALL INTERESTED MEDIA ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND:

Event: Michelle Rhee Addresses K-20 Competitiveness Subcommittee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Time: 3 p.m. -6 p.m.

Location: Webster Hall

The Knott Building 402 South Monroe St. Tallahassee, FL 32399

(850) 488-3088

Michelle Rhee, who currently serves as an informal advisor on education to Governor Rick Scott, is the founder of StudentsFirst, an organization formed in 2010 in response to an increasing demand for a better education system in America. Prior to that, Rhee served as the chancellor of the District of Columbia public schools system of Washington, where she aggressively sought to reform a school system whose students historically produced below-average test scores. During her time as chancellor, Rhee increased the graduation rate by 3 percent, increased reading pass rates by 14 percentage points, and increased math pass rates by 17 percentage points.

In 1997, Rhee founded The New Teacher Project (TNTP) to bring more excellent teachers to classrooms across the country. As Chief Executive Officer and President, Rhee partnered with school districts, state education agencies, non-profit organizations and unions to transform the way schools and other organizations recruit, select and train highly qualified teachers in difficult-to-staff schools. Through her work widespread reform was implemented in teacher hiring practices, improving teacher hiring in Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Miami, New York, Oakland and Philadelphia. TNTP placed 23,000 new, high-quality teachers in these schools across the country.

Prior to founding TNTP, Rhee was a Teach for America corps member in a Harlem Park Community School in Baltimore City.

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